

MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
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ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE
YEAR 1950.



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1950.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you
my report for the year 1950.

A report from the Sanitary Inspector
is also included.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. GOVERNOR.

Medical Officer of Health.

(i) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - S. Governor. M.B., B.Ch.

Sanitary Inspector - H. Burton, M.R.San.I.

(ii) General Statistics.

Area in Acres	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19,777
Population (Registrar-General's estimate for 1950)	.										13,110
Number of inhabited houses	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,921
Rateable Value	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	£50,845
Amount represented by 1d rate (Revised estimate 1950/51)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2202. 17s. 9d.

The estimated population shows a
decrease of 60 on the 1949 figure.

(iii) Vital Statistics.

Table I - Live Births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	103	103	206
Illegitimate	5	3	8
	108	106	214

The birth rate is 16.32 per 1,000 population and it is
slightly in excess of the birth rate for England and
Wales which is 15.8. In 1949 the birth rate in the
district was 15.78 compared with 16.7 for England and
Wales.

Table II - Still Births

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	2	-	2

The rate for still-births is 0.15 per 1,000 compared with 0.37 for England and Wales.

Table III - Infantile Mortality.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	1	2

The infantile mortality rate is 9.35 per 1,000 live births compared with 29.8 for England and Wales. In 1949 the local figure was 19.2 per 1,000 compared with 32.0 for England and Wales.

The causes of infantile deaths were as follows:

Infantile Diarrhoea	1
Misadventure	1
	2

The rate for Infantile Diarrhoea is 4.67 per 1,000 live births compared with 1.9 for England and Wales.

Table IV - Deaths in the Area and Causes

	Male.	Female.	Total.
T.B. of respiratory system	2	0	2
T.B. other	2	0	2
Syphilitic disease	0	1	1
Neoplasm, stomach.	4	3	7
Neoplasm lung, bronchus	5	0	5
Neoplasm Breast	0	1	1
Neoplasm uterus	0	2	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms,	9	6	15
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	9	18
Coronary disease, angina	9	3	12
Hypertension with heart disease	2	6	8
Other heart diseases	17	18	35
Other circulatory diseases	4	6	10
Pneumonia.	1	2	3
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0	1
Ulcer of stomach	2	0	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	0	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	6	10
Motor vehicle accidents	2	0	2
All Other accidents	1	1	2
	80	66	146

The death rate in March this year is 11.14 per 1,000 population compared with 11.6 for England and Wales. Last Year's figures were 11.0 compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

The following table gives the percentages of deaths in the principal age groups.

Under 1 year	1.37
1 - 5 years	.68
6 - 15 years	.68
16 - 65 years	36.30
66 and over	60.97
	<hr/> 100.00%

(iv) Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases Notified

Scarlet Fever	1
Measles	187
Lobar Pneumonia	1
Erysipelas	1
Whooping Cough	20
Poliomyelitis	3
T.B. - Pulmonary	12
T.B. - Non-Pulmonary	1
	<hr/> 226

Of the three cases of Poliomyelitis which occurred, two were in an isolated part of the district. All three cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Peterborough and two were discharged by the end of the year.

The one case of Scarlet Fever was nursed at home.

February to June saw an increase in the number of cases of measles notified but after August no more notifications arrived.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

One female person aged 83 was removed by the Council in accordance with the provisions of the above Act, as being aged, infirm, living in insanitary conditions and being unable to devote to herself and not receiving from other persons proper care and attention. The Court Order dated 28th February, 1950, was for a period of three months and removal was effected to the Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech, on the 1st March, 1950. At the termination of this period the patient volunteered to remain in Hospital, and was still there at the end of the year.

Typhoid "Carrier"

Since the outbreak of Typhoid Fever in 1948, there is still one "carrier" living in an isolated part of the district. Samples of Faeces are taken weekly and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. The sanitation at the cottage is subject to strict supervision.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1950.

The following are details of visits and inspections carried out in 1950:-

2,147

<u>Defects</u>	<u>Defects</u>	<u>Outstanding at</u>
<u>found</u>	<u>remedied</u>	<u>the end of 1950.</u>

Choked drains	2	2	-
Defective drains	4	4	-
Insufficient Drainage	2	1	1
Cesspools, Defective construction	2	2	-

Defective closets, structure	3	2	1
Defective sanitary pails	2	2	-
Insufficient	1	-	1
Cleanliness	1	1	-

Rats and Mice	21	21	-
Vermin and filthy premises	2	2	-

HOUSING DEFECTS.

	B/fd.	Defects found	Defects remedied	Outstanding at the end of 1950.
Defective roofs		40	37	3
walls		15	13	2
eavespouts		2	2	-
plasterwork		4	3	1
washing accommodation		3	2	1
doors and frames		4	3	1
windows and woodwork		4	2	2
stoves and fireplaces		4	3	1
floors		8	5	3
stairs		4	3	1
		2	2	-
Insufficient or defective refuse accommodation		5	2	3
Dampness		6	6	-
Paving		1	1	-
		102	84	18

HOUSING.

During the year 44 houses were completed by the Council and 7 private houses under licences granted by the Council. Two licences were issued during the year for the erection of private houses, both for owner occupation. One licence was also issued for a "cost of works" house.

Ten building licences were issued for housing work during the year to the value of two thousand, eight hundred and forty one pounds.

One house was reported to the Council under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936, and a Demolition Order made. The house was still occupied at the end of the year, though the tenant has subsequently been rehoused by the Council, and demolition commenced.

I would at this point express my appreciation to the Housing Committee for their interest in lists submitted by me of persons deserving of consideration for a Council House. These lists are not compiled without numerous interviews and visits and such action by the Committee is refreshing and gratifying. Such encouragement on these matters can go far towards alleviating the housing situation.

There are many houses in March, which, but for the after-effects of war, would have been considered for demolition long ago and we now find owners in the unenviable position of receiving low rents and being expected to repair properties to a reasonable degree; the cost of such repairs being out of all proportion to the rents received. Until more houses can be erected I cannot see where much progress can reasonably be expected in dealing with these sub-standard dwellings. The minor repairs carried out to such dwellings only prolongs the agony of the occupants and yet who can judge whether their plight is worse than a family living with in-laws? All in all it is a formidable task but if tackled in the right spirit improvements will be made and one will have the satisfaction of knowing that some effort is worthwhile.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no change in the circumstances of the district during the year. The following is the information requested by the Ministry.

- 1) Whether the water supply of the area and of its parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.- Yes.
- 2) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations have been made of the water, and the results of any analysis.- No official samples have been taken on behalf of the Council; the water is known to be examined at regular intervals on behalf of the Water Board.
- 3) The position as to the contamination by lead.- The Water is hard and has no plumbo-solvent action.
- 4) Action as to contamination.- There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.
- 5) Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of population supplied from the public water mains.- (a) Direct to houses 90%. (b) by means of stand-pipes 10%.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION. The number of animals killed during the year at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses in the town was as follows: 216 Cows; 868 Other Bovines; 128 Calves; 1,566 Sheep; 557 Pigs; Total 3,335. This is an increase of 552 on the figure for 1949 when the corresponding total was 2,783. 33 goats were also inspected during 1950.

Condemnations during the year included the following whole carcasses:- 11 Cows; 10 Other Bovines; 7 Calves; 4 Sheep; 13 Pigs; Total 45, together with a quantity of offals and parts of carcasses bringing the total weight of meat and offals condemned up to 10 tons 18 cwts., 2 qrs. 6 lbs.

	Cows	Other Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
No. of animals killed.	216	868	128	1,566	557	3,335
Condemnations: Tuberculosis Whole Carcasses	5	5	-	-	-	10
Part Carcasses and/or organs	106	137	-	-	8	251
% of animals affected with Tuberculosis	29.62	11.63	-	-	1.43	-
Condemnations: Other causes Whole Carcasses	6	5	7	4	13	35
Part Carcasses and/or organs	90	420	-	23	53	586
% of animals affected with Other Diseases	31.48	36.98	5.51	0.58	9.51	-

There are two Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses in the Area and 100% meat inspection is aimed at and usually attained but only by considerable overtime work as much slaughtering takes place in the evenings. Here mention must be made of the assistance received from the Slaughterhouse Manager and staff, without whose co-operation the work would be rendered more difficult. It is a matter of regret that the premises at Burrowmoor Road cannot be improved and altered to prevent the hanging and cooling of carcasses in the actual Slaughtering Hall itself. This is bad practice and ought to be remedied as did the elimination of the rope and pulley method of hoisting the carcasses. The other slaughterhouse at City Road is now being used more often but this is badly sited and at present negotiations are under way with a view to more satisfactory arrangements being made. I sincerely hope that something tangible will result.

The transport and delivery of meat was not satisfactory and on taking the matter up with the Meat Transport Organisation Ltd., I was successful in having the vans fitted with wooden "slats" which enabled the meat to be raised a few inches off the floor of the vans. Previously hindquarters were hung on rails and forequarters laid directly onto the floor of the vans. This has been a small step forward and will be bettered when the vans can be constructed to enable both hindquarters and forequarters to be carried on rails. I would like to express my appreciation to the Meat Transport Organisation for their co-operation in this matter.

It is interesting to record that two cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* were discovered during routine meat inspection. Both were viable cysts and discovered in the external masseter muscles, in each case the recommended procedure was adopted.

The Ministry ask for any information regarding clean food and I am pleased to record that during the year the Council agreed to adopt the Model Byelaws relating to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air. The Byelaws have since been confirmed by the Ministry.

During the year food shops were circularised with a copy of the pamphlet "The Customer's Health is in Your Hands". In addition Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1933, was included where appropriate.

OTHER FOODS. Many inspections were made during the year of stocks of other food stuffs, and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

(1)	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>Weight lbs.</u>
	Cheese	168½
	Eggs - Frozen Liquid	40
	Eggs	18
	Bacon	37½
	Bloaters	28
	Smoked Cod	27
	Bottled Fruit	23
	Cod Roes	14
	Flour	18
	Margarine	6½
		<hr/>
		380½

(ii)	<u>Tinned Goods.</u>	<u>No. of Tins.</u>	<u>Weight lbs.</u>
	Milk	185	177 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Fruit	85	109 $\frac{3}{4}$
	Peas	16	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Sandwich Spread	33	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Soup	8	8
	Marmalade	3	6
	Tomatoes	5	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
	Tinned Fish	6	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Mincemeat	4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Tomato Juice	3	2 $\frac{5}{4}$
	Beans	4	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Beetroot	1	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
	Orange Juice	1	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
	Christmas Pudding	1	1
	Jam	1	1
	Crab Paste	2	$\frac{1}{2}$
		<u>358</u>	<u>351$\frac{3}{4}$</u>

All the unsound food was voluntarily surrendered and in no case was seizure under the Food and Drugs Act, required.

MILK.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, the Council issued five Dealer's licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk, nine Dealer's licences for Pasteurised Milk and one Supplementary Licence for Sterilised Milk.

The following samples were taken giving the results shown:

Pasteurised Milk.

No. of samples taken	Satisfied Methylene Blue test	Satisfied phosphatase test	Failed Both tests
3	3	3	0

Tuberculin Tested.

No. of samples taken	Satisfied Methylene Blue test	Failed Test
2	2	0

One sample of Sterilised Milk was taken and this satisfied the Turbidity Test.

Eight samples of milk were taken for biological examination for the detection of tubercle bacilli. There was no evidence of Tuberculosis on post mortem examination of any of the inoculated guinea pigs.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the County Council are also known to take samples.

ICE CREAM - BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Forty nine samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge. The provisional grading of samples was as follows:

Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Grade 4.	Total.
36	9	1	3	49

Nineteen of these samples were submitted for fat content giving the following results:-

1. 9.20%. 2. 6.14%. 3. 8.85%. 4. 12.2%. 5. 6.25%.
6. 9.45%. 7. 3.96%. 8. 5.24%. 9. 7.0%. 10. 9.35%.
11. 8.55%. 12. 9.4%. 13. 12.5%. 14. 9.2%. 15. 6.0%.
16. 7.2%. 17. 7.7%. 18. 7.6%. 19. 9.6%.

At the end of the year 27 shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There is one manufacturer in the area.

RATS AND MICE.

A survey was carried out during the year and co-operation maintained with the local Agricultural Executive Committee. The Hythe and Sewers were treated, as recommended and of the manholes treated "no take" was recorded in each case.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

In view of the very small number of sites licensed I have not submitted to the Council a suggestion that a site for caravans should be sought. Generally speaking the sites have been well kept and one wonders whether or not a communal site has every advantage when viewed from both sides. We all know that the "Englishman's home is his Castle" and from a psychological aspect there is much to be said against regimentation. One cannot help thinking that the number of moveable dwellings would be decreased if the occupiers were able to find alternative accommodation.

TABLE OF NOTICES SERVED DURING 1950.

	<u>Served during</u> <u>1950.</u>	<u>Complied with</u> <u>by 31.12.50.</u>
Public Health and Housing Acts		
Verbal	14	13
Letter	38	29
Statutory	2	2
Food and Drugs Act, 1938.		
Verbal	4	4
Letter	2	2
Milk and Dairies Order		
Verbal	1	1
Other Acts and Orders		
Verbal	11	11
Letter	1	1
Factories Act, 1937.		
Letter	8	6
	<u>81</u>	<u>69</u>

In conclusion, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the members of the Council, and my colleagues on the staff for their helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

H. BURTON.

6th September, 1951.

Sanitary Inspector.

